The West Australian

Sport Life + Style Entertainment Travel Countryman Motoring Regional Latest WA National World Full Coverage Anzac Galleries Video Weather Health Real Estate Jobs Funerals Place an Ad

Brickies in demand as builders face delays

Share

DANIEL EMERSON The West Australian October 4, 2014, 2:40 am



Good times: Brickies Marty Kelly, Thomas Christy and Damien Kelly.

alternative building techniques, including modular homes.

After slumping to 17,790 in 2011-12, new home building projects peaked at a record 28,650 last financial year and demand is only strengthening, with 30,000 approvals in the pipeline.

The surge is being driven by low interest rates, first-home- owners cashing in on stamp duty concessions and the \$10,000 First Home Owner Grant to build new homes, boosted by \$3000 in the 2013-14 State Budget.

Tradespeople such as roof carpenters, plasterers, and wall and floor tilers are in demand, but none more than bricklayers, with some earning up to \$2 a brick compared with \$1.40 last October and \$1 $\,$ the year before that.

BGC Residential chief executive Kelvin Ryan said a good indicator of the severity of a bricklayer shortage was the number of newspaper job advertisements, usually three or four under normal conditions.

Wednesday's _The West Australian _ had 31 advertisements for bricklayers. "There's no denying it's an issue, it's biting and no builder is immune from it," Mr Ryan said. "We have had some bricklayers say, 'Yes, we will come to a job' and then not show up and when you ring them it's because somebody else has poached them with more money."

Master Builders Association executive director Michael McLean said delays inevitably increased

Perth is in the grips of a

to 10 weeks and prompting

workers from each other.

Australia's biggest homebuilder, WA's BGC, which claimed the

shortage was fuelling

unprecedented interest in

Texas tracks 50 exposed to Ebola, 10 'high risk'

OUR PICKS



Kids hospital funds delay hits staffing



First womb transplant birth recorded



Mum's tears for model Gemma Ward



Muslims lead outcry over beheading



More teachers accused of assault



Prison officers fight discipline rules



AFL mourns loss of great, Robbie Flower



FIFO stress peaks for return to work



building costs but fixed-price contracts meant it was builders rather than customers who paid for

Housing Industry Association WA executive director John Gelavis said delays in securing bricklayers, "anywhere from six to 10 weeks", were made worse by recent wet weather.

Bricklayer Marty Kelly, working for homebuilder 101 Residential in South Guildford, described himself as "flat out". "It's a good time to be a bricklayer," he said.

Share

Compare Health Funds

1 iselect.com.au/Compare_Health_Fund

Are Your Health Fund Costs Rising? Compare Health Fund Policies Today!

Click here

Begin the journey with our Full Coverage special including news, video, personal stories and interactive features



Mitch Marsh in doubt for Test debut



Varnish bar outshines the rest



Beer adds fix to food



MH17: Full Coverage - news, video



WE RECOMMEND

Student's remains found three years after NEWS







Tessa home to fight cancer ENTERTAINMENT











FROM AROUND THE WEB

7 Uncommon Shipping Container Homes ROYAL WOLF

















COMPARE & SAVE V Home Loans from 4.5%



- > Credit Cards Compared
- > Car & Personal Loans
- > High Rate Saving Accounts

FOLLOW US

POPULAR VIDEOS











Sydney cliff rescue

MORE FROM THE WEST





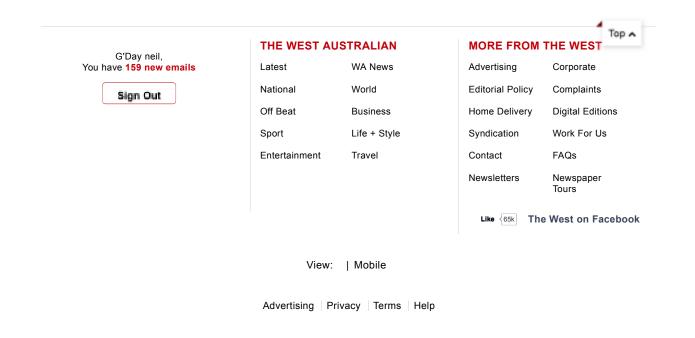


COMPARE & SAVE





2 of 3 4/10/2014 11:10 AM



1

3 of 3 4/10/2014 11:10 AM